Consumer Confidence Report

For Year 2008

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
CITY OF DUBOIS
PWSID 6170016

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
BUREAU OF WATER STANDARDS AND FACILITY REGULATION

2008 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT
PWSID #: 6170016 NAME: City of DuBois

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua de beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien. (This report contains very important information about your drinking water. Translate it, or speak with someone who understands it.)

WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION:

This report shows our water quality and what it means. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Mayor John "Herm" Suplizio at (814) 371-2000. We want you to be informed about your water supply. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the second and fourth Monday of every month in the Council Chambers located in the City Building at 16 West Scribner Avenue at 7:00 P.M. There is an open forum at each meeting where questions and concerns will be addressed. Anyone interested in addressing the Council at Council Meetings is asked to make questions or concerns known at a Council Work Session. The Council Work Sessions are open to the public, and are held at 4:00 P.M. on the Thursday preceding the regular Council Meeting.

SOURCE(S) OF WATER:

Our water source is:

Our water source originates at the Anderson Creek Reservoir. The reservoir is fed by three principal streams, which are Anderson Creek, Dressler Run, and Montogmery Run. The reservoir was first constructed in 1903, subsequently expanded in 1925, and expanded again in 1936. It covers 210 acres, and has a perimeter of 5 miles. The reservoir was designed to contain 615,000,000 gallons of water, which collects surface water from a drainage area of 26.2 square miles.

A Source Water Assessment of our source was completed in February of 2003 by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). The Assessment has found that our source is potentially most susceptible to transportation corridors and bridges, stormwater runoff, and on-lot waste disposal. Descriptions of such items are as follows: road deicing and potential for spills along roads and bridges, runoff from agricultural fields and lawn care, and malfunctioning septic systems. Overall, our source has little risk of significant contamination. Summary reports of the Assessment are available by writing to the City of DuBois at P.O. Box 408, DuBois, PA and will be available on the PADEP Web site at www.depweb.state.pa.us (Keyword: "source water"). Complete reports were distributed to municipalities, water supplier, local planning agencies and PADEP offices. Copies of the complete report are available for review at the PADEP Northcentral Regional Office, Records Management Unit at (570) 327-3565.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

MONITORING YOUR WATER:

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws. The following tables show the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2008. The State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data is from prior years in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. The date has been noted on the sampling results table.

DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS:

Action Level (AL) - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Treatment Technique (TT) - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Mrem/year = millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

pCi/L = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

ppq = parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

ppt = parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

ESTE INFORME CONTIENE INFORMACION MUY IMPORTANTE SOBRE SU AGUA DE BEBER. TRADUZCALO O HABLE CON ALGUIEN QUE LO ENTIENDA BIEN.

Tests Showed Coliform Bacteria in DuBois Water

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. We took 20 samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria during May. Two (2) of our samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than l sample per month may do so.

What should I do?

You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 (800) 426-4791.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. *Coliforms are bacteria, which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.*

Usually, coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the system's treatment or distribution system (pipes). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or *E. coli* , are present. **We did not find any of these bacteria in our subsequent testing, and further testing shows that this problem has been resolved.**

What happened? What was done?

The Water Department has taken numerous samples and has found the testing to show no irregularities. Also, testing was done by the Department of Environmental Protection and they, also, found no irregularities.

DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS:

Chemical Contaminant	MCL in CCR units	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine	4	4	1.6	1.1-1.6	ppm	2/27/08 4/29/08	N	Water additive used to control microbes
Barium (IOC)	2	2	0.052	1 Sample	ppm	2/10/04	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (IOC)	2	2	0.86	1 Sample	ppm	2/10/04	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids	60	N/A	50.0 Avg.	10.5-83.2	ppb	3/08-10/08 (1st QTR)	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	TT	N/A	1.38	1.23-1.38	ppm	7/23/08	N	Naturally present in the environment
Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	80	N/A	56.5 Avg.	29.3-68.2	ppb	3/08-10/08 (3rd QTR)	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination

***EPA's MCL for fluoride is 4 ppm. However, Pennsylvania has set a lower MCL to better protect human health.**

Contaminant	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90th Percentile Value	Units	# of Sites Above AL of Total Sites	Violation of TT Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Lead	15	0	4.3	ppb	0 out of 20	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Copper	1.3	1.3	0.15	ppm	0 out of 20	N	Corrosion of household Plumbing.

Microbial Contaminants	MCL	MCLG	Highest # or % of Positive Samples	Violation Y/N	Typical Sources of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	For systems that collect <40 samples/month: • 1 positive monthly sample For systems that collect ≥40 samples/month: • 5% of monthly samples are positive	1	1	N	Naturally present in the environment.

Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Level Detected	Sample Date	Violation of TT Y/N	Source of Contamination
Turbidity	TT=1 NTU for a single measurement	0	0.08	12/14/09	N	soil runoff
	TT= at least 95% of monthly samples≤0.3 NTU		100%	1/08-12/08	N	

HEALTH EFFECTS:

N/A

OTHER VIOLATIONS:

There are no other violations.

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION:

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater run-off, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA and DEP prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA and DEP regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

OTHER INFORMATION:

- The City has completed the installation of a radio read water meter system. Monthly billing of water bills is being phased in.
- The City is continually working to identify and complete projects to improve the water system.
- The City is proceeding with DEP mandated improvements on the dam at the Anderson Creek Reservoir.